## Claims

- 1. A surface treated steel sheet for a battery case in which a diffusion layer of a nickel-phosphorus alloy is formed at a surface on the inner side of the battery case.
- 2. A surface treated steel sheet for a battery case in which an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a diffusion layer of a nickel-phosphorus alloy is formed as an upper layer at the surface on the inner side, and an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a nickel layer is formed as an upper layer at the surface on the outer side of the battery case.
- 3. A surface treated steel sheet for a battery case in which an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer, a nickel layer is formed as an intermediate layer and a diffusion layer of a nickel-phosphorus alloy is formed as an upper layer at the surface on the inner side, and an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a nickel layer is formed as an upper layer at the surface on the outer side of the battery case.
- 4. A surface treated steel sheet for a battery case according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the diffusion layer of the nickel-phosphorus alloy contains  $Ni_3P$ .
- 5. A surface treated steel sheet for a battery case according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the thickness of the nickel-phosphorus alloy is within a range from 0.1 to 2  $\mu m$ .

- 6. A surface treated steel sheet for a battery case according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the phosphorus content in the nickel-phosphorus alloy is within a range from 1 to 12% by weight.
- 7. A surface treated steel sheet for a battery case, in which a diffusion layer of a nickel-cobalt-phosphorus alloy is formed at the surface on the inner side of the battery case.
- 8. A surface treated steel sheet for a battery case in which an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a diffusion layer of a nickel-cobalt-phosphorus alloy is formed as an upper layer at the surface on the inner side, and an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a nickel layer is formed as an upper layer at the surface on the outer side of a battery case.
- 9. A surface treated steel sheet for a battery case in which an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer, a nickel layer is formed as an intermediate layer, and a diffusion layer of a nickel-cobalt-phosphorus alloy is formed as an upper layer at the surface an the inner side, and an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a nickel layer is formed as an upper layer at the surface on the outer side of the battery case.
- 10. A surface treated steel sheet for a battery case according to any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein the thickness of the nickel-cobalt-phosphorus alloy is within a range from 0.1 to

 $2 \mu m$ .

- 11. A surface treated steel sheet for a battery case according to any one of claims 7 to 10, wherein the cobalt content is within a range from 5 to 30% by weight and the phosphorus content is within the range from 1 to 12% by weight in the nickel-cobalt-phosphorus alloy.
- 12. A battery case in which a diffusion layer of a nickel-phosphorus alloy is formed on the inner side.
- 13. A battery case in which an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a nickel-phosphorus alloy layer is formed as an upper layer on the inner side and an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a nickel layer is formed as an upper layer on the outer side.
- 14. A battery case in which an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer, a nickel layer is formed as an intermediate layer and a nickel-phosphorus alloy layer is formed as an upper layer on the inner side and an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a nickel layer is formed as an upper layer on the outer.
- 15. A surface treated steel sheet for a battery case according to any one of claims 12 to 14, wherein the diffusion layer of the nickel-phosphorus alloy contains Ni<sub>3</sub>P.
- 16. A surface treated steel sheet for a battery case according to any one of claims 12 to 15, wherein the phosphorus content in the nickel-phosphorus alloy is within a range from 1 to 12%

by weight.

- 17. A battery case in which a diffusion layer of a nickel-cobalt-phosphorus alloy is formed on the inner side.
- 18. A battery case in which an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a diffusion layer of a nickel-cobalt-phosphorus alloy is formed as an upper layer on the inner side and an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a nickel layer is formed as an upper layer on the outer side.
- 19. A battery case in which an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer, a nickel layer is formed as an intermediate layer and a diffusion layer of a nickel-cobalt-phosphorus alloy is formed as an upper layer on the inner side and an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a nickel layer is formed as an upper layer on the outer side.
- 20. A surface treated steel sheet for a battery case according to any one of claims 17 to 19, wherein the cobalt content is within a range from 5 to 30% by weight and the phosphorus content is within a range from 1 to 12% by weight in the nickel-cobalt-phosphorus alloy.
- A battery case according to any one of claims 12 to 20, which is obtained by a drawing forming method, DI forming method or DTR forming method.
- 22. A battery using a battery case according to any one of

claims 12 to 21 and filling a positive electrode active substance and a negative electrode active substance to the inside of the battery case.